

Mr. MS. I am quite  
delighted with it, and  
enter into  
spirit of the book  
entirely. I have now  
gone through it  
; and the more I read  
the better I am pleased.  
I never  
• any professions, but if  
you can do no better  
take me  
i ally upon trust; at  
least I will be faithful  
to your  
b and can undertake to  
manage it exactly in  
accordance  
our wishes in  
Burlington Street  
[Colburn's offices].  
*Ue* is an odious word  
which shall be henceforth  
banished  
/ocabulary. I only long  
to receive my  
credentials, for  
id you have no time to  
lose on account of a  
very  
ordinary coincidence,<sup>1</sup>  
which I dare not  
explain on  
c, but of which you shall  
know enough the first  
time we  
to prove the advantage of  
its going to press  
immediately,  
moment. I have your  
permission and  
instructions. I will  
s to C[olburn]. Pray  
send me the remainder  
of your  
as soon as possible, for I  
am in a state of complete  
excita-  
the subject.--1 forget Mr.  
DTs Christian initial so  
direct<sup>t</sup> Junior.<sup>12</sup>

Your sincere friend  
and ally

S.A.

: Mrs. Austen's instance  
Colburn. accepted the novel  
publication, though the  
secret of the authorship was  
•ously withheld from him,  
as even for a time from  
Eieli's own family. That the  
mystification might be )lete,

Mrs. Austen copied the whole of the manuscript in her own hand and her friends believed that she had said to write the story; but her letters at the time confirm the statement she made more than half a century later: 'She had given him advice and had occasionally induced him to suppress or modify passages which she considered objectionable in taste, but

the reference is without doubt to the approaching appearance of her second novel *David Copperfield*.

Sir Henry Layard, writing half a century later of events "which he remembered when he was a child, has, as this letter and others show, attested the intimacy between the Austens and Disraeli, and has perhaps somewhat exaggerated the part they played in his life. The story seems to me of doubtful authenticity, and not less so the story which is often quoted of Sir Henry Layard's authority of accompanying his aunt in a call on the Disraelis and finding 'Ben' in the middle of a boxing lesson.